

## Bridging Disciplines Programs



 The University of Texas at Austin  
School of Undergraduate Studies

A few facts to consider:

- 1) Today's 48 year olds have changed jobs almost 12 times. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
- 2) Kodak once had 120,000 employees, but in 2012 it declared bankruptcy NY Times
- 3) In 2004 Blockbuster had 60,000 employees and 9,000 stores, but in 2010 it declared bankruptcy Bloomberg



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A few facts to consider:

4) Experts predict that today's student will change jobs more often than today's employees.

5) Experts predict today's student will change careers more than once.



A few facts to consider:

4) Experts predict that today's student will change jobs more often than today's employees.

5) Experts predict today's student will change careers more than once.

6) Experts predict that today's students' last career has not been invented yet.



## About the BDPs

- Formed in 2002
- 16 interdisciplinary certificates
  - Transcript-recognized
  - Complement a range of majors
  - BDP requirements may satisfy core, elective, and some major requirements



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## About the BDPs

- 19 credit hours:
  - BDP 101 forum seminar
  - Interdisciplinary coursework, primarily drawn from existing course offerings across campus
  - Connecting Experiences: undergraduate research, internships, and creative projects



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## About the BDPs

- Give students a sophisticated interdisciplinary understanding of complex topics
- Prepare students for a professional world that values innovation, flexibility, and collaboration
- Overseen by cross-college faculty committees
- About 700 active students



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## Example: BDP Student Pathway



**Taylor McCaslin**

*Major:* Theatre & Dance  
*BDP:* Digital Arts & Media  
*Graduated:* Spring 2013

### BDP Coursework:

BDP 101: Exploring Digital Arts and Media  
Radio-TV-Film 319: Intro to Digital Media  
Computer Science 302: Computer Fluency  
Computer Science 313: Elements of Software Design  
Computer Science 329E: Computing in Society  
Theatre and Dance 354T: Projection Design

### BDP Connecting Experiences:

Internship: Assistant Stage Manager for Rude Mechanicals  
Creative Project: Created a digital information management system for a theatre festival, and presented his work at a national interactive design conference



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## Example: BDP Student Pathway



**Taylor McCaslin**

Major: Theatre & Dance  
BDP: Digital Arts & Media  
Graduated: Spring 2013

### Career since leaving UT:

Current: Product Manager at WP Engine  
(a WordPress digital experience platform)

Past positions: Indeed.com (Interaction Designer), LIN Digital (Creative Developer)



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## Example: BDP Student Pathway



**Taylor McCaslin**

Major: Theatre & Dance  
BDP: Digital Arts & Media  
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*“The projects I worked on during my Connecting Experiences gave me a portfolio showcasing how I could apply technology to solve real life problems. I leveraged that portfolio while interviewing with companies after graduation, which ultimately helped me break into the tech industry.”*

*“During the program ... I developed a new way of thinking across disciplines.... This cross-disciplinary thinking opens you up in a way that employers value. They see your ability to solve problems across functions and departments, and in our ever-more-connected world, this is a huge asset that makes you stand out in the job market.”*



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## BDP Certificates

- Children and Society
- Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies
- Design Strategies (coming 2018)
- Digital Arts and Media
- Environment and Sustainability
- Ethics and Leadership in Business
- Ethics and Leadership in Health Care
- Ethics and Leadership in Law, Politics, and Government
- Ethics and Leadership in the Media
- Human Rights and Social Justice
- Innovation, Creativity, and Entrepreneurship
- Media, Culture, and Identities
- Museum Studies
- Public Policy
- Social Entrepreneurship and Non-profits
- Social Inequality, Health, and Policy



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## Impact

### BDP NUMBERS

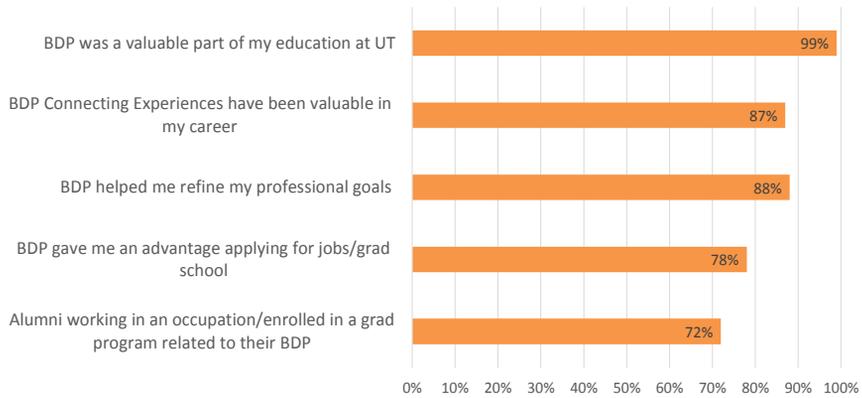
- 700 ACTIVE STUDENTS
- 1,150 ALUMNI TO DATE
- 190 2016 INTERNSHIPS
- 162 2016 RESEARCH PROJECTS
- 78% GRADUATE IN 4 YEARS
- 100% GRADS SATISFIED OVERALL



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# Impact

## SURVEY OF BDP ALUMNI



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